Amendments to the Specification:

Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 29 and continuing on to page 4, with the following:

Although the shortest, lowest cost path from node 102a to node 102d would utilize single unprotected link 106i, such a path would not be usable, *i.e.*, such a path may not be used as a part of a protected circuit. The cost associated with a path may generally depend upon at least one of factors such as the number of hops in a path, the distance traversed by the path, the length of fibers used in the path, and the administrative cost associated with the fibers in the path. The inability to use unprotected link 106i is due, at least in part, to the fact that 1+1 links 106a, 106b may not be used to protect unprotected link 106i. Since a UPSR may not utilize a segment which includes 1+1 links 106a, 106b to protect an unprotected path, the absolute shortest, lowest cost path between node 102a and node ~~102b~~ 102d may not be used to send traffic between node 102a and node ~~102b~~ 102d when a protected circuit is desired.

Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 28 and continuing on to page 13, with the following:

Once a primary path is identified, substantially any protected links in the primary path are identified in step 504. When a primary path between node A1 602a and node D1 602d in network 600 of Fig. 6a is identified as including links 606a-c, since link 606b is a 1+1 link, link 606b is identified as a protected link. In step 506, costs are assigned to substantially all links in a network with links having relatively low costs being assigned to any links identified in step 504 as being protected. The assignment of lower costs to protected links in the primary path often serves to promote the use of such protected links in the computation of a corresponding alternate path.